

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9, 11-17, 19, 20, 22-26, 28, and 30 were previously pending in the application. Claim 4 is amended to correct a typographical error, and new claims 31-32 are added herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 1-9, 11-17, 19, 20, 22-26, 28, and 30-32 are now pending in the application. The Applicants hereby request further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Prior Art Rejections

In paragraph 1, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 11-17, and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neal in view of Gulick.

In paragraph 2, the Examiner rejected claims 6, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neal in view of Gulick and further in view of Murray.

In paragraph 3, the Examiner rejected claims 7, 8, 19, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neal in view of Gulick and further in view of Garson et al.

In paragraph 4, the Examiner rejected claims 9, 20, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neal in view of Gulick and further in view of Sweet et al.

In paragraph 5, the Examiner rejected claims 28 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neal in view of Gulick and further in view of Tow.

Examiner Interview

On October 4, 2008, the Examiner conducted an interview with Applicants' representative, David Cargille. The Applicants and Mr. Cargille thank the Examiner for this courtesy. It was concluded that the Examiner would withdraw the pending rejections of claims 1-9, 11-17, 19, 20, 22-26, 28, and 30, because neither O'Neal nor Gulick teaches or suggests tying compression of the voice message to the specific event claimed, i.e., upon activation of a user selectable keypad option to delete a voice message.

Claims 31-32

The Applicants have added new claims 31-32, which depend from claim 1. Claim 31 clarifies that the voice message is uncompressed when it is initially stored in the user-accessible voice message memory, and the voice message is compressed only after said user-selectable keypad option is activated. Claim 32 clarifies that the voice message is compressed when it is initially stored in said user-accessible voice message memory, and the voice message is re-compressed after said user-selectable keypad option is activated, such that, after recompression, said voice message is more highly compressed than when it was stored in said user-accessible voice message memory. Support for these amendments is found in the specification, e.g., on page 9, lines 9-15. Applicant submits that none of the cited prior art teaches or even suggests the limitations of new claims 31-32. New claims 31-32 are therefore allowable.

Conclusion

For the reasons discussed, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1-9, 11-17, 19, 20, 22-26, 28, and 30 under Section 103(a) have been overcome. Furthermore, new claims 31-32 patentably define over the cited references.

In view of the October 4, 2008 interview and the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants believe that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants believe that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Fees

During the pendency of this application, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment of any filing fees for presentation of extra claims under 37 CFR 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Mendelsohn & Associates, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-0782.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time if not submitted with the reply.

Respectfully submitted,

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